

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, CSCE, SHUM, RO

SUBJECT: VEST/NICOLAE MEETING, AUGUST 1

1. AS PART OF HIS PRE-VACATION ROUNDS, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE HAD BRIEF TOUR DE HORIZON WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AUGUST 1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. VISITS. NICOLAE SAID THERE IS A "SMALL IMBALANCE" IN OFFICIAL VISITS IN ROMANIA'S FAVOR WHICH SHOULD BE CORRECTED BY SCHEDULING SOME U.S. OFFICIAL VISITS TO ROMANIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. OTHERWISE, NICOLAE COMMENTED, IT WILL APPEAR THAT ROMANIA IS "TOO SMALL A COUNTRY" TO MERIT U.S. ATTENTION. NICOLAE SAID THAT IN A RECENT MEETING WITH BRZEZINSKI, HE HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION ON PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S BEHALF FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT ROMANIA. THE HOPE WAS THAT IF A CARTER VISIT TO ROMANIA IS NOT POSSIBLE, OTHER ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE.
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ACCORDING TO NICOLAE, BRZEZINSKI SAID THAT AN INVITATION FOR CEAUSESCU TO VISIT THE U.S. HAD BEEN PROPOSED, BUT THE AGENDA IS HEAVY AND THE PROBLEM IS TO FIND AN OPENING. NICOLAE INVITED VEST TO VISIT ROMANIA, TO WHICH VEST RESPONDED THAT HE HAS BEEN WANTING TO DO SO FOR A LONG

TIME AND IF SUCH A VISIT CAN BE SCHEDULED AT AN APPROPRIATE

TIME, IT CERTAINLY WOULD BE.

2. MULTI-YEAR MFN RENEWAL. NICOLAE FLOATED CONCEPT OF MULTI-YEAR EXTENSION OF MFN, PERHAPS TO BEGIN WITH EXPIRATION OF CURRENT THREE-YEAR U.S.-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT. NICOLAE SAID TRADE RELATIONS HAD REACHED POINT WHERE SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED FOR FURTHER GROWTH, BUT BOTH SIDES UNWILLING TO MAKE SUCH COMMITMENT IN FACE OF MFN UNCERTAINTY. NICOLAE ALSO ARGUED THAT ANNUAL SCRUTINY LIKELY TO SCARE OFF OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN MFN, ESPECIALLY SINCE ANNUAL REVIEW IS USED TO RAISE VARIOUS ISSUES NOT GERMANE TO MFN. VEST SAID WE WILL KEEP THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND.

3. EMIGRATION. VEST TOLD NICOLAE THE QUIET EXCHANGES WE HAVE BEEN HAVING WITH THE GOR ON EMIGRATION AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION ARE JUST THE RIGHT APPROACH AND CONTINUED GOOD PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION PROVIDES US WITH THE EVIDENCE WE NEED TO JUSTIFY EXTENSION OF MFN TO ROMANIA.

4. PROPERTY CASES/DECREE 223. VEST BROUGHT TO NICOLAE'S ATTENTION THE APPROXIMATELY 13 PENDING PROPERTY CASES AND ASKED HIM TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER WHEN HE GETS BACK

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TO BUCHAREST, POINTING OUT THAT THEY COULD BECOME A PROBLEM IF NOT RESOLVED.

5. CSCE. NOTING THAT OUR TWO DELEGATIONS TO THE BELGRADE MEETING ARE WORKING CLOSELY AND WELL TOGETHER, VEST SAID HE WANTED TO "FOREWARN" NICOLAE ABOUT THE REPORT SOON TO BE ISSUED BY THE U.S. CSCE COMMISSION, POINTING OUT THAT IT REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF,

NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THAT HE HOPED THE GOR WOULD NOT OVERREACT TO THE REPORT BUT TAKE IT IN STRIDE. (YOU WILL BE RECEIVING BY SEPARATE CABLE GUIDANCE ON THE COMMISSION REPORT. THE FINAL VERSION OF THE SECTION ON ROMANIA INCORPORATES MOST CHANGES SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR BARNES AND DEPARTMENT.)

6. HUMAN RIGHTS. NICOLAE SAID HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES DO NOT POSE AN INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO THE GOR THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT AND APPEARS TO BE LARGELY ANTI-COMMUNIST. VEST POINTED OUT WE VALUE OUR ABILITY TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS QUIETLY AND FRANKLY WITH ROMANIA

AND SAID IT SHOULD BE EVIDENT THAT THE POLICY IS NOT RPT
NOT TARGETED AGAINST COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. NICOLAE

EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR "UNOFFICIAL" DISCUSSIONS ON THIS
TOPIC THAT HE WOULD NOT BE CONSTRAINED TO REPORT TO
BUCHAREST. HE ADDED THAT THE NEED FOR CLARIFICATION
OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES IS A FURTHER REASON FOR
DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND CEAUSESCU. CHRISTOPHER

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